

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union No. 540



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Proponent Testimony by Ron Berard on House Bill 197 Membership Development Coordinator for IBEW Local 540 House Public Utilities Committee September 20, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 197 (HB 197), a bill to create a Community Solar Pilot Program. My name is Ron Berard, I am the Membership Development Coordinator for IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 540.

Good morning,

Representatives of the Ohio House.

My name is Ron Berard, and I am the Membership Development Coordinator for IBEW Local 540 based in Massillon, Ohio. Local 540 represents over 900 Journeyman and Apprentice Electricians across 7 counties. We are experts in residential, telecommunications, commercial, and industrial electrical construction and maintenance. As more and more businesses and people are moving to Ohio, the need for a robust and reliable electric grid is more important than ever. We need an all of the above approach including Green Solar Energy. The advancements in Solar Energy in recent years has been tremendous. The energy produced from a single panel has increased drastically and they have only just begun. Passage of HB 197 will ensure more capacity, infrastructure upgrades, and the resiliency needed to keep Ohio running strong. That is why I support of HB 197 and sincerely ask you to recommend passage of HB 197 to the full body of the Ohio House of Representatives

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of HB 197

Ron Berard
Membership Development Coordinator for IBEW Local 540